

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King made the following statement today in support of C-SPAN's request to broadcast the negotiations that are currently underway between the House and Senate regarding legislation to change our nation's health care system:

“In January 2008 candidate Obama pledged not to negotiate health care legislation ‘behind closed doors.’ Instead he committed to ‘broadcasting those negotiations on C-SPAN.’ There are serious differences between candidate Obama’s statements in 2008 and President Obama’s actions in 2010.”

“Today, the healthcare legislation is being negotiated behind closed doors, and C-SPAN’s request to broadcast these negotiations is being rebuffed. Tuesday night President Obama and liberals in Congress decided to bypass conference committee debate to craft government-run health care legislation in secret in an effort to expedite its passage into law.

“These closed-door, back room dealings may be the norm in a Chicago-style gangster government, but they are not acceptable in our constitutional republic. Americans have a right to know what is going on so they can make their voices heard.

“When asked about President Obama’s pledge to allow C-SPAN access to health care debates, Speaker Pelosi dismissively said ‘there are a number of things he was for on the campaign trail.’ Apparently the Speaker of the House doesn’t mind the idea of the president breaking his promises to the American people. But the American people do mind, and they expect President Obama to follow through on the promise he made to them on the campaign trail.”